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FOOTBALL IS BACK

Excitement builds as Wanderers prepare for new campaign - Sport

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WANDERERS: What the Chairboys owner had to say

A Q and A with Rob Couhig

ROB Couhig was in a fine mood at the EFL Season Launch at Adams Park, where he hopes he can make it the 'most technologically advanced stadium in the UK'.

The club has invested heavily in improving facilities around the ground and training centre, especially with news a new training centre could be built.

However, it was the claim from the chairman to make Adams Park the most technologically advanced ground in the country that raised eyebrows.

A new audio system has been put in place, as well as a new safety system whilst the club work on having the best wifi in the land.

The LED advertisement boards that go round the pitch are similar to Manchester City's who have just installed there own.

Mr Couhig was clearly excited by the 'cutting edge' technology and admitted that owning a club in the EFL is very different from his time in American sports.

He said: "The difference between the EFL and American sports, where I have participated there as an owner, is that there if you have a club it's all about you as an owner.

"Here you quickly recognize you are a caretaker.

"Your only job is to make sure you deliver this club when you leave in better condition to when you found it and when you know that it makes life easy."

This would be because Mr Couhig believes his role is to give fans the best matchday experience possible, and with the improvements around the ground, he hopes fans will remember their day out at Adams Park.

"To me, my job is all about putting on an event that you will remember five years for now, and hopefully, you'll remember the score, but regardless, you'll remember that great time you had when you came to Adams Park. I'm at a point in my life where I want to do things that are fun and important to others."

Getting to know Missy Couhig

SHE HAS PLAYED A BIG PART IN THE CLUB SHOP SINCE LOCKDOWN ONE

MISSY Couhig first came onto the scene at Wycombe in 2019 and has since worked for the club from afar, but she was back at Adams Park this week at the EFL Season Launch.

In the first time she has spoken to the media, she admitted that it's great to see the improvements to the ground and shop in person.

Sitting on the Board of Directors, she has had to play her role through Zoom since the start of the pandemic, but her return to Adams Park on a matchday is something she is very much looking forward to.

Providing a better match day experience and improving the range of merchandise is a part of the club Mrs Couhig has been working hard on behind the scenes over the past year.

She said: "We were involved every day, so while we weren't physically here, thanks to the magic of Zoom, we were here every day through the entire year and lockdown meeting with different people.

"It's not a one-day event to get a new scoreboard and get a new pitch done.

"We have lots of great help here, and Pete was amazing being but every day we were on the phone or emailing for different items, trying to make sure everything works smoothly.

"A lot of the things I had ideas for and ordered I have not seen physically before walking in this week, so it's been a lot of fun playing with all the new stuff."

When first arriving at the club, she took the advice of people around her to see what areas the shop could expand into.

Now, the club has a webshop, adding extra logistical problems around shipping but the club has been successful in this retail expansion.

She continued: "I didn't know what fans would want to purchase so people gave me their wish list and it was things like beach towels, baby bibs, dishes, dog leads and now every one of them is in the shop today.

"Of course, I have since got more lists from people but there's always tomorrow and we can always improve."

With the opening game of the season edging closer, Mrs Couhig cannot wait to welcome fans back into Adams Park so they can see all the improvements for themselves.

She said: "I'm so looking forward to the game, I think it will be an absolute celebration on Saturday.

"I will be in the shop this Saturday."



Rob Couhig was one of many people to attend Adams Park during the week to speak to the press about Wycombe's future

FOOTBALL: More changes at Wycombe Wanderers

New training ground could be finalised imminently



Despite Wycombe updating their current training ground this summer, the club are planning to build a new one in the near future (PA)

WYCOMBE Wanderers chairman Rob Couhig discussed the future of the training facilities, and the club is set to build a new 'showpiece' centre.

Speaking on August 3, he revealed that negotiations on building a new training ground are being finalised, with the club looking to add to what has been an impressive overhaul of the current facility.

The Marlow Road complex could also be kept and continued to be used even after the new centre is built according to the Chairboys owner.

He said: "We are deep into negotiations on finalising the build out of our new training ground.

"I know that sounds silly to people because why would you go build a new training ground when you've just worked on this one.

"It is because the next one is going to be truly spectacular, it will be a showpiece.

When the new training ground will be built is still unknown so the improvements on the current training ground have still been a big focus for the club.

The Chairmen added: "When getting a transfer to come to you and young guys to sign on to the development team, they are approached by other teams.

"So what we wanted to do was make the 'player's office', because that is what it is, a place they could

By Robert Folker

be proud off and want to go to."

The training facility has had major developments this summer and it even was a deciding factor for one of the new signings.

The club has doubled the size of its medical facility, added a new boot room, kit room, media room as well as increasing office space for the coaches and staff.

Mr Couhig continued: "When you drive into the training ground instead of a gate that someone used to open in the morning, you come in and there is a 'Welcome to Wycombe Wanderers' and it looks, first class.

"You have your key card to get in and we have a parking lock for players, staff and visitors as before they parked on the grass."

"You go into the facility and Pete created a brand new first-team training room with showers and all of that.

"It's a first-class facility and we know that because one of the guys we signed told us one of the reasons he signed was because when he drove up there he said he never expected this at Wycombe."

The team will finish their preparations at the newly improved training ground on Marlow Road for the new campaign.

SPORT

0963-2336



SPORT: Chairboys confirm three signings before season opener Trio of new faces join Wycombe Wanderers



Adams Park (PA)

WYCOMBE Wanderers have confirmed the signings of three new players ahead of their season opener against Accrington Stanley this weekend.

The Chairboys, who have already acquired the services of six players so far this summer, have added a trio of new faces to their arsenal of a squad.

The club on August 4 revealed that goalkeeper Tyla Dickinson, defender Max Ram and attacker Tjay de Barr have all joined the Blues following their successful

trials during pre-season.

Manager Gareth Ainsworth said: "We're really pleased to be growing our squad all the time and bringing in more and more exciting young talent that we believe have the potential to enjoy successful careers in the game.

"Tyla has trained with us throughout pre-season and shown more than enough to earn a deal, and he'll benefit hugely from working alongside Lee Harrison, David Stockdale and the other young keepers we have at the club.

"Max will link up with the development squad at first, but still train alongside the first team, while Tjay has plenty of experience in senior football with his national team and his club back in Gibraltar.

"Thanks to the backing of Rob Couhig and the board, and the fantastic scouting and coaching system that we now have in place for attracting younger players to the club, the foundations are in place for us to keep moving forward on and off the pitch and I'm really excited for what the future holds."

Dickinson, who joins from QPR, is the second keeper to sign for Wanderers this summer as the club signed Adam Przybek from Ipswich on a free transfer.

Ram, who has spent some time in the Non League, was once on the books at Nottingham Forest whilst de Barr, who is from Gibraltar, has played 24 times for his country, scoring twice.

He joins the club from Lincoln Red Imps and has played in a Champions League qualifier for the Red and Blacks.

FOOTBALL: What lies ahead for Wycombe Wanderers Plans for the future as new season starts

THERE is a lot of talk around targets and plans at football clubs - and this season, Wycombe's aim to get back to the Championship has been set.

Rob Couhig and Gareth Ainsworth have set ambitions of returning to the second tier of English football, with the manager being the more cautious of the two.

The future of the club is already being mapped out by Mr Couhig as there are plans for a new training ground being talked about, with the development squad being the focus of the future.

Speaking on August 3, the American owner said: "I'm not a five-year plan guy. I'm 72-years-old - a five-year plan might not involve me.

"I like to plan in two to three years and I know what I can do this year.

"The development squad is the real strength of this place and in my two to three year plan, those players will have a great role, we will be self-sustaining financially and we will be competing in the Championship and after that, Pete and I have talked about whether you go for it or not."

The boss knows the competition will be tough with the financial power of some of the other clubs in the league, but he hopes the experience of last season will prove beneficial in a promotion push.

The Wycombe boss said: "It would be great to be in the shake-up at the end of the season, that is something we have to say.

"It would be great to be in there.

By Robert Folker

"There are some huge spending teams, as I think there are budgets that are eclipsing Championship budgets.

"Ipswich have seemed to be given an endless purse to get up and Wigan again have seemed to have found some cash.

"Portsmouth and Sunderland are always strong, so it would be great to be amongst that and to talk about Wycombe Wanderers in that group is brilliant, so that's the target to stay with the pack".

Mr Couhig has said the club has been preparing this season as if they were a Championship side, whilst discussing with Ainsworth the direction he wants the club to move in.

Last season ended with disappointment for Chairboys fans, but after an impressive back end of the season, there is optimism around the club heading into the new campaign.

Mr Couhig continued: "When we sat down with Gareth, we made this commitment that we may not be in the Championship, but we are going to be a Championship club.

"Everything we do at the stadium and training grounds is going to be at a Championship level.

"We are going to make sure everything for our fans is at that level, the players will be treated that way."

The Chairboys will kick-off their campaign this Saturday.



Wycombe boss Gareth Ainsworth is looking forward to the season which starts on Saturday, August 7 at home to Accrington Stanley (PA)

Owner on the Derby situation

THE RAMS AVOIDED RELEGATION TO LEAGUE ONE AT WANDERERS' EXPENSE

ROB Couhig has admitted he was 'disappointed' with the sanction imposed on Derby County by the Independent Disciplinary Commission.

Derby were given a £100,000 fine for filing accounts that did not comply with an amortisation ruling, with a points deduction still on the cards.

The EFL even released an interchangeable fixture list giving the Chairboys a glimpse of Championship football at Adams Park for the 21/22 season.

However, the EFL decided against appealing the decision, meaning that Wanderers' relegation to League One would stand.

Mr Couhig said: "I was disappointed by the Derby thing.

"I was convinced we were not treated fairly but it is what it is.

"If you watch the game against Derby, we should have had a draw, but they called back Daryl Horgan's goal for offside and he's not, but all that's part of sport.

"Derby will ultimately be found guilty of various things that would have allowed us to stay up but that's in the past."

Wycombe will have to find a more conventional way back to the Championship as they kick off their campaign this weekend, which will have the Couhigs in attendance.

Last season, Wanderers drew and lost to the Rams in their respective matches.

In the first fixture in November 2020, a Matt Bloomfield tap-in gave Wycombe a point in a 1-1 draw at Pride Park before they lost 2-1 at Adams Park in February this year thanks to an Andre Wisdom winner.

The game against Accrington Stanley will kick off at 3pm.